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PATENT Docket No.: P114-US

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail on <u>January 16, 2084</u> in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O Box

1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Patti Crowder

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

In the application of: Dozier, II et al.

Application No.: 09/527,931 Filing Date: March 17, 2000

For: Method For Burning Planarizing A

Semiconductor Contactor

Examiner: R. Chang

Group Art Unit: 3919

ELECTION/RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated December 16, 2003, Applicants elect Species II, corresponding to Figures. 6 and 7A-7B. Applicants also cancel without prejudice claims 28-42. Pending claims 21-27 and 43 are readable on Figures 6 and 7A-7B. Independent claims 21 and 43 are generic to the elected species.

Applicants note the Examiner's request for figure numbers in the claims or a claim table. Applicants respectfully assert, however, that the disclosure and the claims fully comply with all applicable statutes and rules.

Although Applicants believe that no extension of time and no fee are required in connection with the filing of this paper, Applicants request any extension of time required in



PATENT Docket No.: P114-US

connection with the filing of this paper, and Applicants authorize the Assistant Commissioner to charge any fee that may be due in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-0285 (order no. P114-US).

Respectfully submitted,

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JAN 2 3 2004

CHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

____ By:

Stuart L. Merkadeau Registration No. 33,262

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Date: January 1/2, 2004